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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Regarding: Michael J. Mullane  
Serial No. 09/967,250  
Filing Date 09/28/2001  
For SNOW STOP

2005 Amendment

Attention: Art Unit 3635  
Examiner Nahid Amiri

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M.S. Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I certify that this correspondence is facsimile-transmitted  
to the Patent and Trademark Office (703 872 9306) on 08 MAR 2005:

Christopher John Rudy: Christopher John Rudy March 8, 2005.

Thank you for the 02/24/2005 Office action for the  
application of reference. In reply to the action, please  
reconsider and further examine this application.

Three sheets of CLAIMS AMENDMENTS follow the present page.

This amendment more particularly points out and distinctly  
claims the invention, and is fully supported by the underlying  
specification to include drawings. No new matter is added.

Claims 1-3 and 9-17; 21-25; and 26-28 are present.

There are twenty (20) total with three (3) independent and  
zero (0) multiply dependent claims. No additional fee is due.

Claims 18-20 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer,  
and new claims 26-28 are added. Claim 26 corresponds to former  
claim 18 plus former, allowable claim 20; claims 27 and 28, both  
dependent on claim 26, to former claim 19 and clauses in allowed  
claim 21, respectively. Claims 1-3, 9-17 and 21-25 are allowed.

Thus, the case is in condition for allowance. Nevertheless,  
the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned to discuss the  
case, or seek authorization for an Examiner's amendment.

The 35 USC 103(a) rejections of claims 18 & 19, however, are  
traversed. Francovitch is not related, and there is no practical  
motivation to combine it with Smeja et al., which teaches away,  
with claim 19 having been repeatedly allowed. The Examiner's  
reasoning in support of the rejections is in serious error.

A Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 8, 2005 A.D.

Attmt: CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

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